

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: *intro*. Wild Turkey: two ad and a brood of juv noted in Parishville 5 Jul; *intro*. Virginia Rail: four ad and eight juv Rod & Gun Club Rd, Louisville; six ad and 16 juv RMSP by Eisenhower Lock, no date. Am. Coot: one WH 18 Jul. Semipalmated Plover: *intro*. Spotted Sandpiper: several Louisville, Madrid, RMSP. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: *intro*. Am. Woodcock: 26 between HP and WH 1 Jun (MB)! Caspian Tern: flights of two or three over Henderson daily; one RMSP 3 Jul. Com. Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Philadelphia 21 Jun and Waddington 7 Jun, only reports. Barred Owl: two Pv 2 Jul. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: three Massena 3 Jun; two or three Philadelphia 21 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Willow Flycatcher: *intro*. Purple Martin: 43 ad and 172 juv RMSP, Louisville and ten ad and 42 juv Massena, no date (MB). Marsh Wren: 20 ULL 4 July, but see *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing males in spruce swamp, Streeter Lake, Town of Fine. E. Bluebird: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: *intro*. **Loggerhead Shrike**: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Golden-winged Warbler: one Philadelphia 22 Jun. Nashville Warbler: one Pv early Jul. Yellow Warbler: 19 Pv early Jul. Chestnut-sided Warbler: eight Pv early Jul. Magnolia Warbler: two Pv early Jul. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two Pv early Jul. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 20 Pv early Jul. Black-throated Green Warbler: seven Pv early Jul. Blackburnian Warbler: four Pv early Jul. Pine Warbler: three Pv early July. Black-and-white Warbler: five Pv early Jul. Am. Redstart: three Pv early Jul. Ovenbird: 22 Pv early Jul. N. Waterthrush: one Pv early Jul. Mourning Warbler: one Pv early Jul. Canada Warbler: three Pv early Jul.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: eight Massena 22 Jul.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Extremes of weather during the "greenhouse effect" summer of 1988 may have resulted in Osprey nest failures as well as setbacks to Bald Eagle restoration efforts; the Peregrine Falcon recovery went well, however. On the Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, there was continued expansion of the cormorant colony, and it was an excellent year for night-herons on Island "B." Around the Region there were a number of interesting breeding records for rarities.

Lake Champlain stood at 96.54' on 1 June, having dropped 6°F to a chilly 49°F. The first ten days of the month were "May weather," Newcomb falling to 47°F on 10 June. A hot spell followed, with temperatures soaring to the 90's at mid month. Parts of the Champlain Valley recorded 2" of rain 25 Jun, and the month ended with badly needed showers. Early July was hot, then hotter, so that by 8 Jul, with Plattsburgh thermometers reading 94°F, Champlain had warmed to 68°F. The first real rain in two weeks fell on 14 Jul. The month closed with Plattsburgh at 95°F on 30 July. Early August was similarly scorching, Lake Champlain reaching a tepid 77°F by 1 August. The first significant rain in over a month fell overnight 20 Aug. More rain on 27 Aug finally began to recharge depleted

groundwater supplies, with dry brooks flowing slightly by the end of the season.

The NYS DEC made flights on 13 May, 13 Jun and 6 Jul to survey Adirondack Osprey nests. Things began on a tremendous note. Some 47 historic sites were surveyed and 43 nests (four new) were found. Of these 32 had parent birds on them during May. By the July flight, however, only 13 nests were judged productive, producing just 20 young Ospreys.

Meanwhile, Bald Eagles made three nesting attempts in Franklin County. Two active nests near Franklin Falls had eggs and incubating adults, yet failed, while a pair of eagles north of Paul Smiths built three stick nests in one tree before abandoning activity. All adults were products of the "mega-hack" site established near Tupper Lake in 1983. The NYS DEC notes high, severe winds during June (70 m.p.h. gusts recorded at Plattsburgh) and the wide temperature fluctuations during the period as possible causes of the Osprey and Bald Eagle failures. Birders also presented problems by loitering near rare raptor sites. They should be aware that their simple presence may keep parent birds off the nest, resulting in the loss of eggs or young, and is thus a violation of Federal and NYS law (not to mention of common sense as well).

Peregrine Falcons fared better, with five active nests in Essex County producing 10 young. Another eight young were released into the wild from a Franklin County hack site, while a mountain in southwestern Clinton County had two adult falcons through the summer. The Essex County nests were located near Elizabethtown (1 young fledged), Keene Valley (2 young fledged), Keeseville (3 young fledged), Westport (3 young fledged, all were banded), and Wilmington (1 young fledged, nest never found). The NYS DEC is attempting to educate and to gain the cooperation of rock climbers, in an effort to insure the security of the peregrine eyries without having to close the cliffs.

Bird-banding operations were conducted on the Four Brothers Islands on 11, 16, and 19 June. A hen Common Merganser was banded on Island "C," a record total of 163 Black-crowned Night-Heron young on Island "B," the standard. sample of 1,000 Ring-billed Gull chicks on Island "C," and 163 Herring Gull chicks on Islands "A," "B," and "C." None were banded on Island "D," where there were again signs of a red fox. Double-crested Cormorants built a record 263 active nests on three of the islands, nesting for the first time on Island "C." A pair of White-winged Scoters at the islands on 11 Jun were late.

No details accompanied the report of a family of 12 **Canvasback** on a thick lilypond pond along Church Pond Rd. near Lyon Mt., Clinton Co., seen 15 Aug by Jan Trzeciak. The Adirondack Conservancy's Katherine Eagleson and Mike Peterson located two territorial pairs of **(Yellow) Palm Warblers** in typical muskeg habitat near a tiny bog pond on Spring Pond Bog, Franklin Co., 1 and 17 June. The bog is a key component of The Nature Conservancy's Boreal Heritage Preserve, and a pair of Palm Warblers had been sighted near the same tarn during July 1986. A number of interesting species were reported from the St. Regis Indian Reservation by Hollis White, including two **Sedge Wrens** on 4-June, near where they were found along the Quebec border last summer.

Along the Cedar River, Bob McKinney banded 55 individuals of 19 species during the summer, including two Lincoln's Sparrows. Near Elizabethtown, a total of 40 individuals of 17 species were banded between 20-31 Aug, including a transient Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 25 Aug. Although 200 or more species

nest in the region, just 152 (including transients) were reported. This is consistent with totals since 1985, however, when the monumental Atlas effort ended.

High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., will sponsor a work-in-progress on *Adirondack Birds*, being co-authored by Bruce McP. Beehler and John M.C. Peterson. Publication is expected in 1990.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: four Bulwagga Bay 19 Jun late. Pied-billed Grebe: 4 calling ad Cedar R Flow 27 Jun-25 Jul unexpected. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*, max 1,000+ FBI early Aug. (LS). Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*, three St. Regis R daily late Jun (HW). Canada Goose: 100 migrants Elizabethtown 8:30 p.m. 4 Jun late; yellow neck-band Sanford L 27-28 Jun. **Canvasback**: *intro*. Com. Merganser: max 200 FBI 28 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; also ad Indian L, FRAN, early Jun (WR), 2nd yr w of Whiteface Mt. Olympic ski center 8 Jun, ad and imm Ligonier Pt. 19 Jun (EB). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Gray Partridge: pr Hogansburg 15 Jun only report. Spruce Grouse: male BHP 1 Jun only report. Wild Turkey: max 5 ad, 19 y Ticonderoga 20 Jul. Virginia Rail: Jones Pd 22-26 Jun, BHP 11 Aug only reports. Killdeer: max 21 Westport 11 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr St. Regis R 2 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 arr Westport 9 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr three Boquet R delta 23 Jul. Least Sandpiper: arr two Ticonderoga 22 Jul, max eight mouth of Boquet 23 Jul, last 2 Westport 25 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Indian L, HAMI, 22 Jul (RM), unusual inland. Com. Snipe: arr Westport 17 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Boquet R delta 23 Jul, max 30 Westport 17 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Black Tern: only report Hogansburg 8 Jul.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: racing pigeon lost training from St. Johnsbury, VT, 17 Aug found dead in pumphouse Westport 31 Aug; owner notes, "We have had a lot of sunspots this year and it raises heck with the birds' homing ability." Long-eared Owl: calling Elizabethtown 15 Jun. Three-toed Woodpecker: nest, 1 y Ferd's Bog. Black-backed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 11 Jun, 16 Jul; Indian L, FRAN, 4 Jul; Mt. View L dam 27 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: *intro*. Willow Flycatcher: Ausable R, Lake Placid, 11 Jun (Alder Flycatchers "everywhere" in vicinity). Gray Jay: max 12+ Madawaska 11 Jun, observer notes, "Walking backward, as you suggested, works!" (JA). Com. Raven: three Crown Point Peninsula early Aug, where there were May sightings. Boreal Chickadee: reports from Big Slide, BHP, Ferd's Bog (active nest 16 Jul), Great Gange, and Phelps Mt. Tufted Titmouse: 2 Buttermilk Falls, HAMI, 29 Jul a most unexpected location. Sedge Wren: *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Algonquin 10-12 Jun.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: Hogansburg 8 Jul (HW), Crown Point 23 Jul (EJ) only reports. Philadelphia Vireo: Marcy Dam 10 Aug (EJ) only sighting. Golden-winged Warbler: singing male Hogansburg 10 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: singing male BHP 1 Jun (JP). **(Yellow) Palm Warbler**: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: banded Elk L (SRD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*, BHP to 11 Aug. Pine Siskin: "1 saw more summering birds this summer than in many years, following last winter's heavy

incursion." (RM); field observers and feeder watchers are in full agreement with this assessment.

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REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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About 150 species were reported during the summer months. However, this figure is derived from just a few locales in Region 8 since only a small number of dedicated birders were active locally. The season is easily summed up, as most of the summer season it was simply too hot to bird watch! According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, this was the second driest June on a statewide basis since records began in 1890. The Center also reports that several temperature records, both maximum and minimum, were broken during the course of the month. Albany experienced a 96° on 15 Jun and a 38° on 11 Jun. The most notable storm for Albany occurred on 22 Jun when thunderstorms with hail and strong winds gusting to 46 mph dumped over an inch of rain. As was the case in June, July also had an abnormally large number of very hot days. Albany reported twelve days of temperatures over 90°. When it wasn't too hot to be out bird watching it was too wet. Although the first half of July was dry, the second half of the month contained a number of heavy rain days, certainly helping out the plants. August as a whole was warm and dry. Albany had a low temperature of 30° and a maximum of 102° that month.

One nice addition to the Region 8 report was the coverage of a marsh in Quakerstreet in the southwest corner of Schenectady Co. just east of the Schoharie Co. line. As mentioned in the individual species accounts this marsh hosted a number of shorebirds not found easily in other areas of the Region. Basic Creek Reservoir, a typical spot for shorebirds, was a dry, grassy field this summer and will continue to be so until the construction on its causeway is completed.

Woodpeckers were a confusing lot for this summer season. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were on everyone's list. Three immature Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen in Cherry Plain on 28 Jul and an immature was banded at Jenny Lake on 13 Aug. However, no Red-Headed or Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported. Northern Flickers were reported as common and Pileated were seen in Cherry Plain, Clarksville, Delmar, Schodack Island, more than usual at Jenny Lake, and Schoharie.

Five species of flycatcher were found commonly in the Region: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested and Eastern Kingbirds. Alder Flycatchers were reported from Five Rivers and Willow Flycatchers were seen on Staats Island, Schodack Center, Castleton as well as Five Rivers. A birder from Indonesia visiting this country whose life's desire was to see all the swallows of the northeast would have done well to visit Region 8. Purple Martins were tough to see with only a single bird reported from Schodack, but Tree Swallows were common nesters in Bluebird boxes. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were re-